

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

(By Senators Stollings, Foster, Jenkins, Tucker, Laird, Miller
Prezioso)

[Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the need to improve the awareness and public availability of and access to epinephrine auto injectors to better protect and prevent against the threat of death resulting from anaphylaxis emergencies.

Whereas, Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction, a medical emergency that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

Whereas, Statistics suggest that up to 43 million Americans suffer from allergies that could put them at risk of anaphylaxis; and

Whereas, A history of anaphylaxis is usually a predictor of future reactions, studies indicate that at least 25% of adult patients who present with anaphylaxis have no prior history. More importantly, up to 65% of children with anaphylaxis have no history of prior allergies; and

Whereas, According to a 2006 presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology,

1 more than one million emergency room visits each year - 2,700 each
2 day - are allergy-related; and

3 Whereas, Food allergies affect approximately one in 25 school-
4 aged children, an 18% increase from 1997 to 2007; and

5 Whereas, Anaphylaxis can cause death in a matter of minutes,
6 rendering immediate access to and use of epinephrine critical to
7 survival; and

8 Whereas, At least 12 states and the District of Columbia have
9 enacted laws that enhance public access to epinephrine auto-
10 injectors and this life-saving treatment; therefore be it

11 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

12 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
13 requested to study the need to improve the awareness and public
14 availability of and access to epinephrine auto injectors to better
15 protect and prevent against the threat of death resulting from
16 anaphylaxis emergencies; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and
18 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2012, on
19 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
20 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
21 and, be it

22 *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this
23 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
24 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on

1 Government and Finance.

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